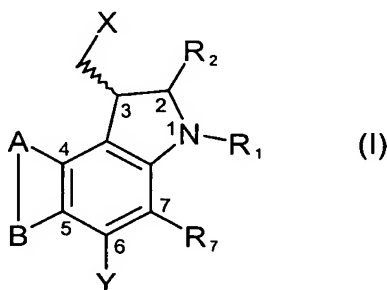


In the Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A compound of formula I capable of forming a combinatorial unit:



wherein:

X is an electrophilic leaving group;

Y is selected from NH-Prot, O-Prot, S-Prot, NO₂, NHOH, N₃, NHR, NRR, N=NR, N(O)RR, NHSO₂R, N=NPhR, SR or SSR, where Prot represents a protecting group;

A and B collectively represent a fused benzene or pyrrole ring (in either orientation), which is substituted by a CO₂H or CO₂R group and is further optionally substituted by up to respectively 3 or 1 group(s) independently selected from R, OH, OR, halo, nitro, amino, Me₃Sn, CO₂H, CO₂R;

R₁ is a nitrogen protecting group, where if Y includes a protecting group, these protecting groups are orthogonal;

R₂ and R₇ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, halo, nitro, amino, Me₃Sn;

wherein R is selected from:

- a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms,
- an aralkyl group (i.e. an alkyl group with one or more aryl substituents), preferably of up to 12 carbon atoms;

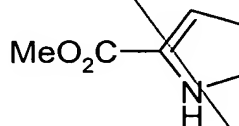
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the alkyl group of (a) or (b) optionally containing one or more carbon-carbon double or triple bonds, which may form part of a conjugated system; and

(c) an aryl group, preferably of up to 12 carbon atoms;
and wherein:

R is optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups, and optionally contains one or more hetero atoms, which may form part of, or be, a functional group;

except that when R₁ is Boc, Y is NO₂, X is Cl, and R₂ and R₇ are H, then A and B do not collectively represent either an unsubstituted benzene ring or:



2. (Once Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R is independently selected from a lower alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an aralkyl group, preferably of up to 12 carbon atoms, or an aryl group, preferably of up to 12 carbon atoms, optionally substituted by one or more halo, hydroxy, amino, or nitro groups.

4. (Once Amended) A compound according to claim 3, wherein R is an unsubstituted straight or branched chain alkyl group, having 1 to 10 carbon atoms.

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5. (Once Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ has a carbamate functionality where it binds to the nitrogen atom of the CPI.

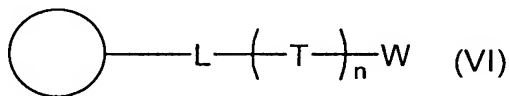
6. (Once Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Y is NH-Prot, O-Prot or S-Prot.

7. (Once Amended) A compound according to claim 6, wherein Y is NH-Prot.

8. (Once Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is either halogen or OSO_2R .

9. (Once Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the 4,5 fused ring is substituted by $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}$ in the 2 or 3 position if it is a benzene ring, or in the 2 position if it is a pyrrole ring.

19. (Once Amended) A method of preparing a compound according to claim 14, by reaction of a compound of formula VI:

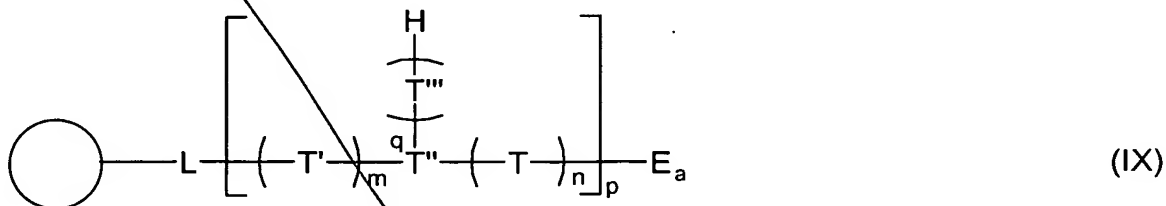


with a compound of formula I according to claim 10, where the 4,5 fused ring is substituted by $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}$ in the 2 or 3 position if it is a benzene ring, or in the 2 position if it is a pyrrole ring, and wherein:

T, n, L and O are as defined in claim 14; and,

W is H or an atom or group for providing a functional group capable of reaction with $-\text{COOH}$.

20 ~~22~~. (Once Amended) A compound of formula (IX):



wherein:

O, L, T, T', T'', n, m and p are as defined in claim 20;

T''' is a combinatorial unit;

q is a positive integer, where if q is greater than 1, each T''' may be different; and,

E_a is selected from the group (a) of E as defined in claim 20;

wherein:

if p is greater than 1, for each repeating unit the meaning of T, T', T'', T''' and the values of n, m and q are independently selected.

Remarks:

Consideration of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The amendment to the specification amends the patent application to include the chain of priority.

With the entry of the above claim amendments, claims 1-30 are pending in the patent application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 19, and 22 have been amended.